

Rain this afternoon and tonight; fair, colder tomorrow; fresh westerly winds.

# The Washington Times.

YOU FURNISH THE ROOM—  
TIMES WANTS  
WILL FURNISH THE BOARDER

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## WASHINGTON HEARS FROM THE FAR EAST

Serious News Received at the State Department---All Eyes Centered on the Czar.

### VIEWED IN CAPITALS OF THE OLD WORLD

Tokyo considers war inevitable. Peace party losing ground. St. Petersburg hopes for the best. Berlin remains optimistic. London turns toward the Czar. Peking all at sea as to condition of affairs. Paris looks for an amicable settlement.

This is again a day of pessimistic portents regarding the Russo-Japanese situation. News of a serious character, but not yet made public, was received at the State Department today, and immediately taken by Secretary Hay to the White House. Shortly after, Minister Takahira arrived, but on information of the Secretary's absence, he declined to see Assistant Secretary Loomis, and returned to the legation. He stated, however, that the news he brought made no change in the aspect of the situation.

#### White House Conference.

Secretary Hay was one of the first callers at the White House in the morning. His presence and that of Representative Hitt of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House led to the belief that important questions relative to the Far East were taken up. Count Cassini had been advised by Secretary Hay that the activity of the United States consuls to be sent to Antung and Mukden will be confined to looking after the American commercial interests in the provinces in which those cities are located.

#### Russia Reassured.

This statement is reassuring to the Russian ambassador, who was much surprised at statements to the effect that American consuls in Manchuria would exert an influence to prevent the dismemberment of China. It is announced at the State Department that the representatives of this country will not meddle in the politics of Manchuria.

### BELIEVED IN THE EAST THAT CRISIS HAS PASSED

ST. PETERSBURG, Jan. 16.—The "Novoye Vremya" today says that telegrams from Vladivostok and Port Arthur report that in highest official quarters in those places the belief is expressed that the crisis in the Far East has passed and that peace is assured. An early agreement is expected.

### OTHER NATIONS MAY HAVE INTERFERED IN THE EAST

VLADIVOSTOK, Jan. 16.—A humorist is current here today that all the powers have sent messages to the Japanese government urging the maintenance of a status quo in the Far East. Dispatches from Port Arthur say Admiral Alexeff, viceroy of the Far East, addressing the Russian troops there on New Year, said: "It is the Emperor's will that peace be preserved in the Far East."

### FAR EASTERN TROUBLES DISASTROUS TO BUSINESS

VIENNA, Jan. 16.—Reports from Russian commercial centers today say the uncertainty in the Far Eastern situation is having a disastrous effect on trade. There are no buyers, prices are falling, factories are without orders, and in some cases contracts already made have been countermanded. Financial crashes are feared.

### GERMANY NOW BELIEVES RUSSIA WILL BACK DOWN

BERLIN, Jan. 16.—It was said at the foreign office today that officers there anticipated Russia's abandonment of the diplomatic position she has taken.

### WEATHER REPORT.

There will be snow tonight in the lower lake region, the middle Atlantic States, and the upper Ohio Valley, and rain in the south Atlantic and east Gulf States. Snow will continue in the lower lake region tomorrow; elsewhere the weather will be fair.

THE TEMPERATURE.  
9 a. m. .... 31  
12 noon ..... 31  
1 p. m. .... 27  
THE SUN.  
Sun sets today ..... 5:02 p. m.  
Sun rises tomorrow ..... 7:47 a. m.  
TIDE TABLE.  
High tide today ..... 7:24 a. m.  
14 high tide tomorrow ..... 8:07 p. m.  
Low tide tomorrow ..... 2:19 a. m., 2:19 p. m.

## CARRIAGE ABUSE EXISTS WITHOUT WARRANT OF LAW

Landis' Charge Sustained in Decision Given by Mr. Tracewell

### CUSTOM YEARS GROWING

First Assistant Postmaster General Wynne Exposed Matter in Test Case.

Private use of carriages at public expense by heads of departments and their subordinates in Government employ is a custom allowed to originate, exist, and be maintained at present without warrant of law.

The Comptroller of the Treasury ruled that the practice was without legal authorization, but still permits accounts for the expense of such service to be audited and paid. His only effort toward a suppression of the abuse is in the direction of preventing its growth.

#### Already Tested.

The absence of any law for the custom was clearly set forth in an opinion given January 23, 1903, by Comptroller Tracewell. In this the Comptroller refused to allow payment for an expenditure for carriage hire by R. F. Wynne, First Assistant Postmaster General.

The amount involved was but \$6.75, but it is understood the claim was presented as a test. In his opinion the Comptroller went into the law at length and expressed his ideas freely on the abuse, which Congress is now thrashing over.

The decision in the Wynne case is said to be responsible for the agitation of the question by Representative Landis.

#### Growth of Abuse.

The practice has grown up under the following item which has been carried in all appropriation bills for the executive departments:

"For miscellaneous expenses, including care and subsistence of horses, to be used only for official purposes, repairs of wagons, carriage, and harness, rent of stable, telegraphic and electric apparatus, and repairs to the same and other items not included in the foregoing."

Taking advantage of the phrase "for official business," heads of departments, assistants, chief clerks and others have saddled on the government the expense of carriages used for official and social purposes. The law has been evaded by certifying in claims put in for auditing that the vehicles were used "for official business."

In the Wynne case the Comptroller clearly pointed out that it was absurd for an officer, located by law at the seat of government, to claim the office of government to be reimbursed for actual traveling expenses incurred within the District.

#### Tracewell's Views.

If the First Assistant Postmaster General is entitled to reimbursement for such expenses, he held the Government must as well be forced to pay his bill for meals and for lodging.

The Comptroller attacked the abuses now being asserted in these words: "I found this use of these appropriations when I was in the office of Comptroller of the Treasury. The practice was hoary with age and was indulged with the full knowledge of Congress, if not with its approbation and consent. I have not permitted its growth since I came into office."

#### Left to Congress.

"I have left things in this regard where I found them, concluding I was not justified in changing a departmental usage and practice of long duration concerning the use of these appropriations, confining myself with calling attention from time to time to the facts, as I am now doing, leaving the cure of the evil, if ever it be, to those who have the responsibility and power to alter existing things."

The evil had not been practised in the case of the First Assistant Postmaster General, and he refused to permit it to be extended to that office. Nevertheless in cases where usage might seem to justify it, the practice went on.

#### Favors Amendment.

Comptroller Tracewell was asked yesterday concerning the amendment of Mr. Landis. He said he hoped it would go through, as it would make the law so definite there could be no misconception of it. Mr. Landis' amendment provided that "No part of any money appropriated by this act shall be available for paying expenses of horses and carriages or drivers therefor, for an officer provided for herein, other than the President of the United States, and the heads of executive departments, and the secretaries to the President."

Under this, Assistant Secretaries, heads of bureaus, chief clerks, and other subordinates will be absolutely cut off from the use of carriages at Government expense while traveling about Washington, whether for official or social purposes.

#### Wynne Explains.

First Assistant Postmaster General Wynne was recently before the Appropriation Committee regarding expenses in his department. The matter of horse hire was brought up, and the committee asked him what he wanted done about it, in view of the fact that he had paid his own bill since the Comptroller of the Treasury ruled that he was not entitled to a carriage as other men in his position are.

"Oh, I don't know as I care what you do with it," he said, "seeing Congress was good enough a year ago to increase my salary to \$5,000 a year at the last session."

As a matter of fact Mr. Wynne's carriage bill last year for official business, and he paid it all out of his own pocket, was more than \$300, all of which was necessary because of the position which he holds.

Those who "Cough at Night" may secure rest by taking Piso's Cure. All druggists. 25c per bot. Adv.

## KAISER WILHELM OPENS SESSION OF PARLIAMENT

Reads His Speech From Throne in a Clear Voice.

### DEPUTY FORGOT TO CHEER

Emperor Had Almost Reached Door Before Customary Applause Began.

BERLIN, Jan. 16.—The Kaiser personally opened the Prussian parliament this morning, reading the speech from the throne in a clear voice.

On entering parliament Emperor Wilhelm was preceded by two noble heralds, clad in fantastic and motley costumes, specially designed by the Kaiser. These heralds will figure at all future state functions.

A Painful Interval.

An unique incident, which for a moment was most embarrassing, occurred when his majesty had completed his speech. According to an inviolable custom the oldest deputy, the decrepit Herr Schaffner, should call for three cheers for the Kaiser. The latter paused and awaited the cheers, but none came. It seemed as if the Diet had conspired to omit this demonstration of loyalty.

In the painful interval that followed the Kaiser frowned and then marched toward the door in dead silence. Just before his majesty reached the portal, Herr Schaffner seemed to awake as from a day dream and started the hurrahs. The whole assembly, which had evidently been waiting for Schaffner to start the cheers, joined with a hearty good will the Kaiser laughed and the incident closed amid general hilarity.

#### Gratitude for Sympathy.

The Kaiser in his address confined himself to Prussian affairs. He thanked Providence for his restoration to good health, and also made expression of his heartfelt gratitude to the public for its sympathy with him in his illness.

## PRESIDENT CONFERS WITH SENATOR QUAY

Supposed to Be Anxious Regarding Action of Hanna in Delaying Call for Republican National Convention.

Senator Quay, of Pennsylvania, was at the White House this morning and had a conference with the President.

He has become a frequent caller of late, and much significance is attached to his visits. No doubt is entertained that he is advising the President on the situation caused by the alleged efforts of friends of Senator Hanna to force him into the field as a candidate for President, and the delay in calling the national convention.

Several members of the national committee, including John W. Yerkes, of Kentucky, and Representative Brownlow of Tennessee, have recently been in consultation with Mr. Roosevelt, supposedly on the same subject.

It is understood, too, President Roosevelt is keeping in close touch with Gen. J. S. Clarkson, of New York, on whose

advice in national political matters he relies greatly, and this accounts for a recent long conference the President had with him.

"President Roosevelt will unquestionably get the solid New York delegation," said Representative Vreeland, of the Thirty-seventh New York district, at the White House today. "My district is the largest in the State, and the sentiment of the people generally there is friendly to the President."

A letter has been received at the White House from E. O. Andrews, secretary of the Boone county, Ill., Republican central committee, informing the President that the county convention formally instructed delegates to the State convention for him. Boone county claims the honor of being the first county to take this step.

Commissioner Ware has the bureau somewhat anxious over some alleged plans of his to reorganize entirely the adjudication of pensions.

"It is said you are to reorganize your bureau and make some sweeping changes in the interest of more economic service. Is that true?" asked The Times reporter this morning.

"I do not know that I am. If I had any plans to that end I should not say so at this time."

"But when you have consummated any such plans you will make them known, will you not?"

"Certainly."

PANAMA NEEDS MONEY, SAYS MESSAGE OF JUNTA

Panama needs money. This fact was emphasized at the first session of the constitutional convention, held yesterday in the capital of the new republic.

The message from the junta to the convention formally turned over the legislative power to the convention and pointed to the insufficiency of revenues. This is due to the lessening of commercial taxes in anticipation of changes to be brought about in the revenues by the ratification of the canal treaty. Two loans of \$100,000 each were floated in New York.

Dr. Pablo Arosemena, temporary chairman of the convention, reviewed the conditions under which the republic was born, and praised the United States for the protection it has assured the isthmian government.

PITTSBURGH, Pa., Jan. 16.—By order of Bishop Phelan, the priests in the Pittsburgh diocese will have their salaries increased \$200 each per year, "as the cost of living is increasing almost daily."

## BLACK SWORN IN AS COMMISSIONER OF CIVIL SERVICE

Ceremony Took Place This Morning at the White House.

### M. A. LATTI OFFICIATES

New Member of Board Declares He Is in Best of Physical Health.

Gen. John C. Black, of Illinois, took the oath of office as member of the Civil Service Commission at the White House this morning.

He called early, accompanied by Commissioner Cooley, and by his son, John C. Black, Jr. The oath was administered by M. A. Latta, one of the White House executive force, who is a notary public.

#### A New Sensation.

"The sensation of having the oath of office administered was agreeable, if not entirely new," said General Black. "I may say further that I am glad to be here, I shall visit the office today, and expect to enter on my work at once."

The general walked on crutches. He said he was recovering from his recent rheumatic attack, and was feeling well. The President greeted General Black pleasantly, and the two conversed briefly.

General Black, who is commander-in-chief of the Grand Army of the Republic, and who succeeds John R. Procter, who recently died, on the Civil Service Commission, arrived in the city last night.

#### Looks Far From Well.

General Black says he is in the best of physical condition, but owing to the injury to his leg in the civil war he is compelled still to walk with the utmost care and slowly. As a matter of fact, he looks far from his professed health.

## FIRST ASSISTANT TRUSTED MACHEN

Thought Orders Had Been Examined When Initialed by Him. Adjournment Till Monday.

MORGAN H. BEACH



United States District Attorney.

Little that was of especial popular interest developed this morning in the trial of A. W. Machen, George E. and Martha E. Lorenz, and Diller E. and Samuel A. Croft, on the charge of conspiring to defraud the Government, in the sale to the Postoffice Department of Groff letter-box fasteners.

William M. Johnson, who followed Perry Heath as First Assistant Postmaster General, and Frank M. Jones, the immediate predecessor of Mr. Heath, were the witnesses on the stand. Both gave testimony concerning the conduct of the First Assistant's bureau and the responsibilities of the chiefs of its divisions. Since the examination of witnesses began, the defense has been trying to establish that Machen signed the orders for fasteners as a mere matter of routine distribution of supplies, and that if there has been any irregularity, the responsibility therefor was on the First Assistant Postmaster General.

Machen's Signature Good.

Both Messrs. Johnson and Jones testified this morning that they relied implicitly upon Machen, and when they received an order for supplies marked with his initials, they thought he had examined the order and was making the recommendations on his own knowledge. Mr. Johnson emphatically denied that he would have allowed Mr. Lieberhardt to imitate Machen's signature to orders or letters, and said he did not know she was indulging in that practice until after he had left the office.

The attendance at the trial this morning was not as large as usual, and those who were anxious to hear spicy exposures of scandal were sadly disappointed, for all the evidence was of a technical nature.

Pritchard Spurs Attorneys.

Speed in the conduct of trials is one of the hobbies of Justice Pritchard, and he has earned the thanks of all those in attendance at this case for his promptness and dispatch in handling attorneys and witnesses.

"Come, gentlemen, let's get to something material in this case," he remarked this morning, when he thought the Machen case was along a line that had already been sufficiently exploited.

Machen continued his activity in directing his counsel, and was constantly whispering suggestions on cross-examination and tips on points which should be strengthened. He was so busy in this way that on two occasions C. A. Douglass, his attorney, had to rather abruptly tell him to keep quiet.

"A Valuable Man."

One of the questions he suggested for Messrs. Johnson and Jones was concerning their opinions of his ability and faithfulness. Both replied they thought Machen a well qualified and expert expert whose advice was of great value to them in the conduct of the First Assistant's bureau.

Court adjourned at 12:45 p. m. until 10 a. m. Monday. The jury was allowed to go home, but was instructed not to discuss the case with anyone.

EX-FIRST ASSISTANTS ON WITNESS STAND

Cross-examination of William M. Johnson was begun in the postoffice case this morning. It was conducted by C. A. Douglass. Mr. Johnson said he had promoted Machen, and he considered the accused a highly competent postal expert. Machen showed his approval of orders and requisitions by a check mark, and seldom initialed a letter unless he had stamped it with the signature of the First Assistant Post-

master General. Mr. Johnson admitted many of his letters were so stamped, but said it was his rule to sign the letters with his autograph.

The witness said he never allowed the stamp on any order involving money. He said it was very unusual to have even standard supplies for which there was already a contract order over a stamped signature. He remembered only a few instances, one of which was the order so signed, shown him yesterday. Mr. Douglass insisted that the ordering of standard supplies was routine of distribution, and Mr. Johnson agreed that might be so. Witness admitted it was not Machen's duty to investigate the order for standard supplies, but said it was the duty of the superintendent of free delivery to see that the articles were really necessary. Unless he had reason to believe there should be a change in fasteners, there was no reason for him to investigate the price of each lot asked for.

Subject to Scrutiny.

The quantity of fasteners necessary was determined by the postmasters and route agents, but Mr. Johnson insisted that those requisitions were subject to the scrutiny and revision of the superintendent of free delivery.

Rural free delivery grew rapidly during his service, said Mr. Johnson, and Machen gave it much of his time. When he went into office there were 1,500 rural free routes. At the end of six months there were 1,200 more, and at the end of June, 1901, there were 4,300, with the intention of doubling that number before July 1, 1902.

Mr. Johnson did not remember if Machen spent his nights in working on rural free routes, but knew he gave the subject much attention. Machen was an expert and very efficient. He discussed the subject with him almost daily.

That Imitated Signature.

Mr. Johnson knew Ina Lieberhardt, Machen's woman chief clerk, and thought her very capable. He did not know Miss Lieberhardt had imitated Machen's signature. He thought the initials were those of Machen, and if there had been an imitation of signature it was without his consent.

Even if the matter was of the merest routine he would not have approved of the practice of the woman in signing the mail in imitation of the superintendent's signature.

"If he gave consent to some one else signing his mail, I would hold him as responsible as if he had signed it," said Mr. Johnson.

Superior Responsible.

Mr. Johnson would not admit that the initials of a subordinate in the corner of a letter would prove the subordinate originated the letter. He said some superior might have given oral instructions about the writing of the letter, and so have been responsible for its contents. Clerks at \$1.00 might tabulate the requisitions, but some one higher would pass on the requisitions. Machen had no right to rely upon the mere initials of a subordinate in the corner, as the First Assistant had to rely upon Machen's signature.

"You relied upon your chief clerk's signature?" said Mr. Douglass.

"Machen was responsible to me and my chief clerk to myself," said Mr. Johnson, which caused a smile.

"I gave no authority for anyone to sign a chief's name, and did not think anyone would put a name on a paper to deceive me."

Mr. Douglass asked if Mr. Johnson intended to insinuate that Miss Lieberhardt had stealthily attached Machen's